

WOMAN'S DISTRUST OF WOMAN BAR TO JUDICIARY

A Reporter Visits the Courts and Interviews Judges and Officials Who Are Skeptical of Woman's Ability to Interpret the Law Impartially. Especially Do the Feminine Attachees Hold Out Against Woman As Judges Because of the General Distrust They Say Women Have of Each Other.

By DORIS E. FLEISCHMAN.

A movement is on foot to install women in New York's judiciary system. And parallel to it is a movement to enlarge woman's sphere of service among those women brought to trial in the city's night courts, legally assisting those who need such assistance.

While such cities as Chicago and Los Angeles have women sitting on the bench at the children's or the women's court, there seems to be great difficulty in removing the strong opposition to the change in New York. But it was found on investigation that the strongest preventive to the success of the plan is the distrust which women have for their own sex. And this distrust has been decidedly acknowledged by the men of the court—clerk, interpreter, probationer and even judge, and also by the women attachées, who constantly observe this very real partiality of women for men, which is perhaps natural, says Mrs. Jean Norris, lawyer, but she adds that it is possible of elimination.

Not until this prejudice is removed

questions as to why she had left her mother in Baltimore, but always asserting that she wanted to see the judge again. It was not enough that Miss Doyle should tell her in all kindness and firmness just what the judge had decided. She wanted to see him and have him tell her.

"This," said Mrs. Jean Norris, when questioned as to the significance of the reiterated demand of this probably feeble-minded woman, "is no doubt typical of the attitude of most of these women. It is true that they do not trust a woman for decisions of importance in their lives. They have been accustomed to dealing with men in all big matters. They have been taught to lean on men. And they have never learned to associate women with affairs of this sort. All of which leads to a species of inhibition with them."

Sex Attraction an Element, Too.

"And they do feel that women cannot understand them as well as men can, for it is the women who make social standards, not the men. They can expect less of aloofness, they think,

them astray. Once you can get a helping hand to these girls, show that you are willing to push for them, and that you really care, and then change their surroundings to more hopeful ones, you can in a very large percentage of the cases set them straight."

"Are there enough women probationers in this court to do all that work, to follow up all the girls, and to continue the friendships for years afterward?" I asked.

"That's not for me to say," said Miss Doyle.

Judge Murphy was sitting at the Night Court. Generally his eyes were downcast, but occasionally he looked at the woman standing in front of him, between plainclothes man and bluecoat. The plainclothes man, who has been responsible for her apprehension, raises his hand and swears. Then he tells all about it in a quiet voice. His honor looks at the girl and asks her if she wants her trial to-night or to-morrow. The clerk says that she may have a messenger sent to her friends free of charge, and may have legal assistance—if she will or can pay for it. She says to-morrow, and passes out again to the room at the left where they wait during the trial, through that to the room where they waited before the trial—the room with its ridiculously heavy barred cells, and then upstairs to the detention pens. The bail

"In the first place," said Judge Mayo, in discussing the bill which would provide for two associate women judges, who should take care of girls generally spoken of as "wayward," and any other cases to which the judge may assign them, "there are not enough of these cases. Girls under eighteen come under this law, which treats of '353' cases. There are 9,000 cases in all tried each year at this court. And of these in 1911 only forty-seven were of these girls, the rest being of small children and older boys; in 1912, 31 cases; in 1913, 135, and in 1914, 133. This, then, on an average, would give the woman only a few days of work in each year. Clearly a waste of \$4,000 salary."

"Then there is a greater argument against having women judges over women. Women here will not tell their stories to women. They often tell me all about it in a few minutes, when they have refused to tell their mothers—which concealment in a family where there has obviously been little interchange of confidence is a most natural one—and the women, volunteer workers, who give up their work just for the love of it and the good they may do, may perhaps have been trying to get them to talk for a week."

This statement was quite verified by the volunteer workers, who cried out vehemently against a further invasion

of the court by women. "Heaven forbid that there should ever be a woman judge here!" they cried. "There are quite enough women here already. There seem to be more workers than offenders."

Modern Youth Emancipated.

"Our modern young man has become emancipated," so says Bernard Fagin, head probation officer of the court, in agreement with Judge Mayo. "Good heavens!" exclaimed this young man, whose fine and earnest face proclaims his entire sincerity and his desire to help those for whom he holds his position, "when I think of what the young boy of to-day is growing up to I gasp. He has too many women around him all the time. He has his mother when

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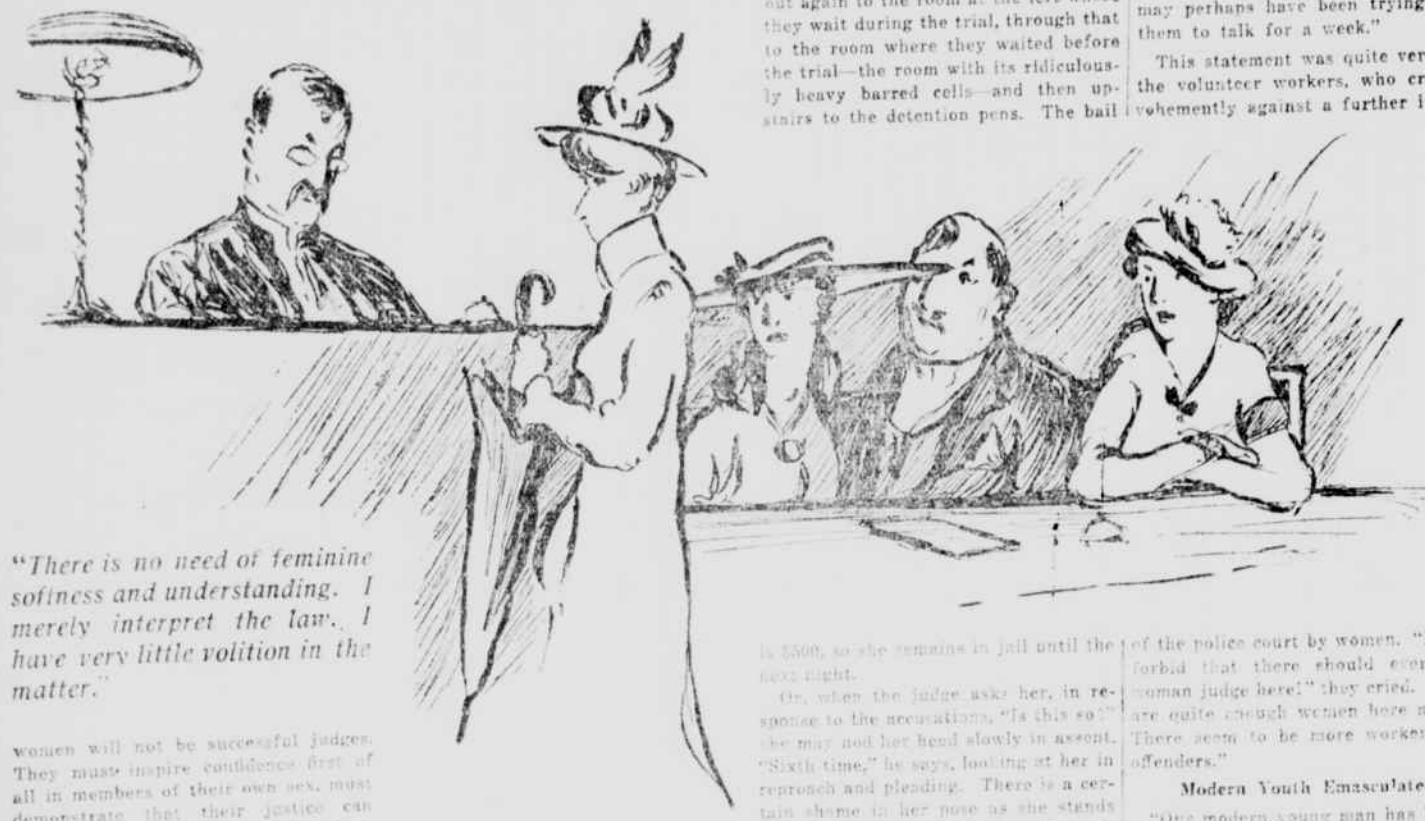


Mrs. Olive Gabriel, Mrs. Alice Huth, Mrs. Virginia M. Mollenhauer and many other women lawyers, to provide a system whereby the women who are taken to the night court may have legal assistance free of charge. "It may be that some of these women are convicted on insufficient evidence. They must have fair trials. We women lawyers want to arrange to give our services at stipulated periods to supplying this need."

Women to Police "Movies," "New York

Hell Holes."

But more than all these things are needed preventive measures, Mr. Fagin believes. "Women policemen would be



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women will not be successful judges. They must inspire confidence first of all in members of their own sex, must demonstrate that their justice can quite as naturally be expected as that of the men, and, most of all, that they can be counted upon to sympathize with the "fallen" sister quite as much as can the man. The grave doubt which most people who are of the underworld, or that of it, have of her dependable impartiality or of her ability to prove this satisfactorily to the women brought to her for judgment is the first barrier to be eliminated by women who aspire to judicial honors for their sex.

My first inkling as to this surprising fact came when I visited the night court, at Sixth Avenue and Tenth Street. During the recess, which lasts from about 10:30 to 11:30 o'clock, I went to the probation officer's room. A group of women was seated about the desk at one end of the dingy room and going over the papers of those women who, because of their apparent possibilities of reform and because this was their first offense, would be allowed out on probation.

"A woman judge? God forbid!" said Miss Anna Doyle, the woman probation officer, who was taking charge of the room for the evening. "It is not that I don't think women are good, and it is not that I don't believe in suffrage. I think women should have the vote. But I should hate to have one over me as a judge. Some women might be as good as a man judge, but you never can tell with a woman. They are erratic. They would always be influenced by inconsequential things."

Pretty Woman—Woman Judge!

"And, besides, they are very jealous, and always wanting to get ahead of each other. Do you know what would happen if a pretty woman would come up here for trial before a woman? She would be sent up for seven years. And, anyway, if the judge was not jealous of her good looks, the prisoner would think so, and that would be pretty bad."

"And the prisoners would hate it like poison," added Mrs. E. Twigg, the court attendant, who has been working in that capacity over twenty-five years. "They would never confide in a woman judge. They would not like to tell the story to a woman. They feel that a man would understand them better and would never be as hard on them. I have watched her for years and years, and I know how they feel about telling their story to a woman. Why, right here, even with the probation officers, Miss Doyle and Miss Smith, and the rest, we often have the hardest time to get them to talk. We just have to draw it out of them, like a tangled thread. Yet they feel that we are of them, not like a judge who would be something apart."

A girl, who had been sitting over on one of the benches with two "waitresses," who were waiting for the trial of two men, rose and came forward a few steps, addressing Miss Doyle. She had a bedraggled rose trimmed hat on and her face was dazed and anxious.

"Don't you want to talk to me?" she asked.

"Sure I do," responded the probationer, heartily, "sit right down there. So she sat down, and was told that she would go to a kind lady's house until the judge decided what to do with her. She listened patiently, answering all

for the men on this account. And, too, there is doubtless the element of sex attraction, which would make them prefer to tell their tale to a man rather than to a woman."

Mrs. Norris, who is working very hard to aid in the passage of the bill, which will place two women as associate judges in the New York courts, feels that most of this distrust of the women for the woman judge, because it is the result of their previous environment and because it is induced by custom, will be obviated once women have accustomed themselves to seeing responsible positions filled impartially and well by other women.

All, however doubtful they may be as to the judiciary suitability of women, are quite convinced of the fact that the present system of having women probation officers is one of the most beneficial of all corrective institutions. In the night courts of New York there are six women and among the children's courts there are five.

The value of these women lies in



At the Night Court.

their splendid follow-up work. Once a woman or a child has been sent out on probation, and before that, they examine the home conditions, wherever possible; they find out what are the circumstances which have been conducive to the offense, and plan their campaign accordingly. With the aid of the various religious organizations who do volunteer work they endeavor to place these women in surroundings which will allow of their reform, and then they keep in constant touch with the young women. These must report to the officers, and in return receive visits from them.

Probation System Most Hopeful.

"The probation system is the most hopeful part of the whole thing," said Miss Doyle. "Very few of the women who are allowed out on probation ever come back. Most of them aren't vicious, and they have not been betrayed by a man, necessarily. It is only that their home life is terrible and ignorant, indirectly, and chiefly because they get in with the wrong girls—girls who break down their opposition and lead

is \$500, so she remains in jail until the next night.

the, when the judge asks her, in response to the accusations, "Is this so?" she may nod her head slowly in assent. "Sixth time," he says, looking at her in reproach and pleading. There is a certain shame in her pose as she stands there, a tall, clever-looking woman, dressed in excellent taste. She, too, waits for her trial to-morrow night when she may have a lawyer, who will plead for as little time as possible—maybe get her off altogether.

No Need for Feminine "Softness."

But throughout it all, whether a woman is sent up for time at once or delays her trial, the proceeding is impersonal, businesslike and dreary. The judge interprets the law as it is laid out before him, and the rest move in accordance.

"A woman judge?" asked Judge Murphy when questioned on this score. "I have no objections to seeing one here. Although I see no need for it. There is no need for feminine softness and understanding. I merely interpret the law. I have very little volition in the matter."

Rather a Devil than a Woman.

"And the women would hate it. They would not tell their troubles to a woman. They would rather have a devil over them than a woman." Judge Murphy sees in the whole problem a hopeless struggle against a human necessity. Nothing can ever eradicate it, for there will always be a very large margin of offenders of this sort. It is curious that the women who work with them are so far more cause for hope than he does. The probation officer in the years that she has worked in the court has noticed a change for the better, particularly caused by the system which breaks down the percentage of repeaters.

An impartial observer would wonder why it is that the probation officers, the court attendant, and even the little white-haired matron, who waits with the prisoners in the anteroom, and who has been in court service for twenty-five years, all find it possible to gain the real friendship of the women they guard and advise, and yet deny the possession of this power to a woman judge.

At the Children's Court, at Third Avenue and Eleventh Street, one finds the situation slightly different, with even more organized opposition to the woman judge. True, the men who have the affairs in charge do their work with admirable sympathy and understanding of the character of the people with whom they are dealing. Judge Mayo sits back in his chair and fixes his small eyes on the parents of the child, impressing them with the responsibility which is theirs for the character and conduct of the child.

Weeping mothers, who accuse their husbands of non-support, bring the babies who have been found begging—their offense against society—as a protest. But the judge and the probation officers and the "Sisters" decide that it is quite as much the fault of the woman, who fails to keep her home decently clean. And a man, with six weeping children, all between two and six years of age, must give them up, because he has no money and no work, and the children have been found on the street homeless late at night. The problems of the Children's Court are, mainly, the problems of home and parent, and these, the judge and the women and men officials protest, are more in keeping with the training and temperament of a man than of a woman.

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cerned, and these form the majority of the cases brought before the judge. Seven out of ten cases are boys. "Women are incapable of understanding the motives, character or environment which leads a boy to go wrong. Many of these delinquents are of the roughest sort—gangsters, cocaine fiends and committees of all the unseemly practices of which a boy of that sort is capable. They cannot go to their 'dumps' and 'joints' and see what it is all about."

"And, more than that, there are things about which a woman cannot speak to a boy. Certain subjects only a man can discuss with a boy like this, and from only a man would the boy want to hear it."

This point Mrs. Jean Norris grants. She would not have a woman judge acting unaided in a court of this sort. Cases concerning the older boy should be tried by a man, she believes, but the others should be left to the woman.

"But most men cannot understand Woman Has the Greater Understanding the child and the young girl as well as a woman can. Two children who have been brought to the court for a

To many people it will be a great surprise to see how many inventions there are to the credit of women. As a matter of fact, it has been something of a surprise to the clubwomen themselves to discover just how many things have been patented by women. Each day new exhibits come in, and the end, so it seems, is not yet. That women have gone far afield from the things in which they are supposed to have a special interest is proved by the attachments for automobiles, the improvements for derricks and various kinds of governors which will be shown. Man cannot claim longer to have a monopoly on invention. But—and this is something which these psychologists who claim that woman is the practical sex will be interested in as proof of their theory—the greater number of the inventions, and undoubtedly the most interesting ones, are things which women use rather than men.

Take, for example, a potato peeler which is to be shown. Of course, there have been many potato peelers on the market, but this one might be called a peeler deluxe. It shows almost human intelligence, and as for speed it puts to shame any number of human hands. It doesn't make any difference to this potato peeler whether it works for the bachelor girl who cooks for herself alone or for the chef who prepares potatoes by the bushel. It takes a little longer to peel the bushel, it is true. But that is a small concession to make, surely.

Resembling some instrument of torture is a device wherein can be placed anything which requires cooking in hot grease. Rows of spikes are so arranged that the food will be in the fat and yet the fat will not get into the food—a matter of importance in these days, when dietitians are proclaiming the terrible things which an unwise use of lard and butter may do. The woman who would love to go camping if it weren't for the fact that most of the comforts of home stay

he is a baby. His father is never with him. Then he goes to school and has women teachers. He is arrested by a woman policeman and he comes to the court and says 'Yes, ma'am' to me and to Judge Mayo. We ask him why and he says: 'Teacher told me to.' That isn't right. Isn't the boy ever to have the benefit of masculine training, a masculine discipline, a masculine viewpoint? A time must come when he is thrown with men, and his training should include more of the masculine. What are they trying to do to the boy?"

"To have a woman judge, therefore," said Judge Mayo, "would be a grand danger to the child." Even for the little girl and boy the judge advocates a masculine judiciary. "It is good for them all to have a man here when they are brought here for being naughty. A little severity is not a bad thing. And, besides, they are not afraid of me. I often make friends with them. But one must not be too soft in the treatment of the boy who is brought here."

Mr. Fagin spoke of the difficulties which women would have in conducting cases where the older boys are concerned, and these form the majority of the cases brought before the judge. Seven out of ten cases are boys. "Women are incapable of understanding the motives, character or environment which leads a boy to go wrong. Many of these delinquents are of the roughest sort—gangsters, cocaine fiends and committees of all the unseemly practices of which a boy of that sort is capable. They cannot go to their 'dumps' and 'joints' and see what it is all about."

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Of Women, by Women, and for Them Is the Woman's Industrial Exposition

By LUCY HUFFAKER.

Of the women, by the women and for the women—those ten words of paraphrase describe in brief the Woman's Industrial Exposition April 10. Sixty-six women's clubs of which is to be held at the Grand Central Palace for one week, beginning greater New York are co-operating on the management of the exposition, at which everything which woman has made (so it is said) will be shown, as well as everything for which woman has any need. From the humble pin to the most complicated machinery, nothing will be missing which could interest a woman. It doesn't make any difference what kind of woman she is—a business woman, or a "home body," a rich woman or a poor one, a young woman or an old one—there will be something interesting for her at the exposition.

To many people it will be a great surprise to see how many inventions there are to the credit of women. As a matter of fact, it has been something of a surprise to the clubwomen themselves to discover just how many things have been patented by women. Each day new exhibits come in, and the end, so it seems, is not yet. That women have gone far afield from the things in which they are supposed to have a special interest is proved by the attachments for automobiles, the improvements for derricks and various kinds of governors which will be shown. Man cannot claim longer to have a monopoly on invention. But—and this is something which these psychologists who claim that woman is the practical sex will be interested in as proof of their theory—the greater number of the inventions, and undoubtedly the most interesting ones, are things which women use rather than men.

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Mrs. Edith Dunsew Donnerkey

Then there is a new dish washer to be shown. Like the potato peeler, the dish washer is not particular as to the person for whom it works. Dainty Sevres or thick granite ware will emerge from it equally clean, equally unlicked.

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The woman who would love to go camping if it weren't for the fact that most of the comforts of home stay

right at home while she is away will begin to plan for an out-of-door vacation when she sees a new lamp which is to be shown. It was especially designed for camping out or for porch use at home. For the flame of this lamp cannot be blown out! The winds may rage around it and the rains may descend upon it, but it will burn brightly on until some one presses a little spring, which will allow the loyal light to dim away. Another claim made for this lamp, evidently the most remarkable one which has been seen since the days of Aladdin, is that it is economical, consuming only a fraction of the oil which the old, blow-out-at-every-gust lamp required.

Quite as interesting, if not more so, are the inventions shown to make women more beautiful. Most women, they would only admit it, are on a continuous Ponce de Leon search for everlasting youth, and if there is one generalization which can be made without fear of its having a single exception, it is this: Every woman wishes to be slender. That is why it is safe to predict that there will always be a crowd around a certain chair which is to be shown.

This chair, its inventor claims, makes use of electricity in such a way that superfluous flesh can be done away with. All that the woman who desires to be svelte need do is to sit upon the chair. The chair will do the rest. When one considers how many women have walked miles each day, and eating nothing which they liked, have gotten little of what they did not like in order to be slender, it seems that the millennium of beauty must be close at hand, if only this chair does what is claimed for it.

The clubs which are interested in the exposition will act as hostesses. Each day nine clubs will be in charge, and from each club there will be fifteen women present to explain the exhibits. As the work of women of all nations will be shown, there will be present each day interpreters, so that the woman from Naples who has not yet learned English and the woman whose one language is Lithuanian can understand all the exhibits.

Each day during the exposition there will be lectures. When it is said these lectures are being planned in subjects of special interest to women, it will be evident how wide a range that category now covers, for the talks will range all the way from demonstrations of the best way in which to modify milk for babies to discussions of world politics. And in between these seeming extremes there will be lectures on subjects in which the business woman and the artist will be interested.



Mrs. William D. Beanz

Clubwomen Interested in the Exposition